

REMOTE CABINS & TRAPPING CABINS

Goals

Remote Cabins. Provide opportunities for isolated cabin development in remote parts of the Northwest Planning Area where survey and conveyance are impractical, where disposal of land would cause potential conflicts with other resources and uses, and where a long-range interest in public ownership and use exist.

Trapping Cabins. Support the trapping economy of the region by providing sites for trapping cabins while avoiding or minimizing interference with subsistence activities and traditional uses.

Community and Social Impacts. Consider the needs and demands of all state residents and minimize the impacts on communities and resources when authorizing remote cabins or trapping cabins.

Management Guidelines For Remote Cabins

A. Minimize Conflicts. To avoid conflicts with public access, important fish and wildlife habitat, public use, and trapping, permittees will not be allowed to build remote cabins in the following areas:

1. Within 50 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a lake, stream, river, wetland, or existing trail unless a greater distance is required in a specific management unit.
2. Where public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, recreation, or mining would be hindered.
3. Within one-quarter mile of existing airstrips used by the public.
4. Within one mile of a guide site authorized under a state permit or lease.
5. Within one mile of established, traditionally used campsites.

Persons receiving a remote cabin permit are responsible for installing a wastewater system

that complies with the Department of Environmental Conservation's wastewater regulations.

B. Fire Protection. DNR will not alter fire management plans because of the presence of remote cabins. Cabin permit holders will be advised before permit issuance and in the permit that DNR does not assume liability due to loss or damage to the cabin from wildfires and will not provide fire protection if the fire management plan does not call for such protection in the area.

DLWM will notify the Division of Forestry Fire Management Planning Team of the location of all authorized remote cabins.

C. Spacing Cabins. Remote cabins will be spaced at least one-half mile from another remote cabin or trapping cabin unless a different spacing requirement is established for a particular management unit in Chapter 3. The distance between a remote cabin, a traditional subsistence campsite, and a trapping cabin may also be reduced if one person is the permittee for both structures or the adjacent permittee expresses a non-objection.

D. Legal Access. To avoid trespass problems DNR will provide remote cabin permit holders with information on legal access routes to the remote cabin area.

E. Buildings, Density, and Specific Guidelines. Limitations on the number or size of buildings, location of cabin sites, allowed or prohibited forms of access, and any other considerations appropriate to the area and consistent with remote cabin regulations may be established before remote cabin permits are offered.

The densities established for remote cabin permits in each unit are for new cabins and are not affected by the existence of unauthorized cabins on state lands, or their eventual disposition.

In order to reduce cost to the state and increase satisfaction for the permittee, remote cabin permittees should be allowed to choose their own cabin sites within the constraints of the guidelines of this plan and the remote cabin regulations,

rather than having the department establish the sites.

F. Type of Interest in Land. Remote cabin permits are not intended to be converted to fee simple disposals of land that otherwise would be retained in state ownership. Guidelines for remote cabins in each area are designed to avoid creating future pressures for actual disposal (for example, by setting appropriate number and density limitations).

G. Rights-of-Way. New rights-of-way to remote cabin sites will not be granted unless doing so protects other important public values.

H. Mineral Entry. Unless closed for reasons other than the presence of permitted remote cabins, remote cabin permit areas will remain open to mineral entry.

I. Avoid Conflicts with Traditional Uses of Resources. See *Subsistence Activities and Traditional Uses* Guideline A, 2-43

J. Use of Remote Cabins for Trapping.

Under the current remote cabin regulations, commercial trapping and other commercial uses are not allowed from a remote cabin. Commercial trapping from remote cabins would create significant conflicts with existing uses in the planning area. Remote cabin permits given in the Northwest Area will contain provisions prohibiting commercial trapping. Therefore, if the remote cabin regulations are changed to allow commercial uses, commercial trapping will still be a prohibited use from the remote cabins in the Northwest Area.

K. Other Guidelines Affecting Remote Cabins. Several other guidelines may affect remote cabin management practices. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Subsistence activities and traditional uses

Management Guidelines for Trapping Cabins

A. Permits and Community Practices. Traplines within the planning area can be hundreds of miles long. Shelters along these lines are typically temporary structures such as wall tents. Shelters created for short duration do not require a permit. Frame structures or shelters erected for long periods of time require a permit.

The construction of permanent shelters for the purpose of trapping or hunting is not common in Northwest Alaska. Tents continue to be the primary shelters utilized during trips away from the central residence or fish camp. The ability to move freely without regard to individual territorial restrictions is an important element in the local system of land use. Sociologically, the catch from trapping areas was generally shared by a large family or within the local family kinship system. Biologically, the furbearer carrying capacity of Northwest Alaska is much lower than in other, more forested areas of the state. Trapping use has traditionally moved with the resource; certain areas become relaxed in usage or allowed to rest without harvest pressure for some periods to minimize impacts or revitalize the resource. Issuance of a trapping cabin permit to an individual would be contrary to the existing open and non-territorial system of trapping practiced in Northwest Alaska, and could seriously disrupt the general subsistence use patterns of the local residents. For these reasons, trapping cabin construction permits should not be issued if the cabin will conflict with existing trapping and subsistence activities.

B. Distance Between Trapping Cabins. New trapping cabin permits will not be issued within five miles of a known actively-used trapping cabin on either state or non-state land unless a physical barrier such as a mountain range separates the two cabins, or both cabins are permitted to one person, or the permittee of the adjacent cabin expresses a non-objection to a lesser distance.

C. Minimize Conflicts. To avoid conflicts with public access, important fish and wildlife habitat, and public use, permittees will not be allowed to build trapping cabins within 50 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a lake, stream, river,

wetland, or existing trail. A greater distance may be required in a specific management unit.

D. Avoid Conflicts With Traditional Uses of Resources. DNR will make a reasonable effort to provide notice so that users of the area may learn of the proposed action and make known the type and location of his or her use. See *Subsistence Activities and Traditional Uses*, Guideline A, page 2-43.

E. Other Guidelines Affecting Trapping Cabins. Several other guidelines may affect trapping cabin management practices. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Coordination and public notice
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Lakeshore management
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Subsistence activities and traditional uses

Land Allocation Summary

Two areas totalling 131,200 acres will be open to remote cabin permits when the program is approved for implementation. Actual cabin sites will be widely scattered in these areas with only 14 permits being made available.

ACREAGE & NUMBER OF REMOTE CABIN PERMITS BY AREA

Permit area	Subunit(s)	Acreage	Permits
Sinuk River	5b, 5g	23,040	4
Upper Koyuk River	6b, 6c	108,160	10
Total		131,200	14

Trapping cabins are allowed on state lands throughout the planning area, subject to the guidelines of this plan. Trapping cabin construction permits have been issued for two sites on the Mauneluk River, and are applied for on two other sites in Unit 3 (see Appendix E).